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	From: Rayana, Cuba Report No: HKH-175h Local Pile No: 10-1
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1-	Report Made By: Andrew P. Marton/722/PProved By: Moodrow C. Ollan
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3	Source Cryptonym; References:
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	SUBJECT: Segundo Frente Nacional del Escambray
	SOURCES Subject of HAVA 037, 8 October 1957 May Seawier
	Station Comments:
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E	1. Source offered to arrange a week's tour of the Escambray for any observer we choose so that we could "see for ourselves." He loaned the Station
	what was purported to be an official SFME document entitled: ¿Que Es El
	II Frente Macional Del Escambray? (What is the Second Mational Front of the Escambray?) from which the information in paragraph 11 was taken.
	Verifax copies of the document are attached for Headquarters, Base Santiago de Cuba and Station files.
1	2. RI, please card all names appearing in this report.
	3. Source has been assigned a "C" rating on the basis of Station contact with him for over a year.
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## FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE A Completely reliable B Usually estable C. Farts reliable D Not assists reliable L Not initiable (Applied to asserted of doubtful bonesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F Krisbility cannot be judged (Applied to uniteded or insufficiently stated concreal.

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: 1. Confirmed by other independent and reliable shares: 2. Probably true, 3. Possibly true, 4. Linubilist 5. Printally false, 6. Cannot be judged. Documentary, Based on original document,

## S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY Cube

REPORT NO.

HKH-1754

SUBJECT

Segundo Frante Nacional del Escambray

DATE OF REPORT

30 October 1958

NO. OF PAGES

REFERENCES

DATE OF

INFO. PLACE &

27 October 1958

Cuba, Habana

29 October 1958

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE

SPNE leader in Habana who has just returned from a 30-day tour of the Sierra Escambray (C). Appraisal of Content: Paragraphs 1-10: 3; Paragraph 11: Documentary.

- 1. Rebel forces in the Sierra Escambray, Province of Las Villas, now consist of one major force of about 1,400 men and two minor forces of about 100 and 164 men each. The major force, which calls itself the Segundo Frente Macional del Escambray (SFNE, Second National Front of the Escambray), consists of former students, members of the Organizacion Autentica (OA, Authentic Organization, followers of Carlos PRIO, former president of Cuba), and members of the Partido del Pueblo Cubano (Ortodoxo), including followers of Emilio OCHOA. Organizational details of the SFNE are given in paregraph 11 below. The two minor groups are the Directorio Revolucionario (DR, Revolutionary Directorate, a student revolutionary organization) with about 100 men under Rolando CUBEIA Secades; and the 26 of July Revolutionary Movement with 164 men under Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA.
- 2. The SFNE members see themselves as the answer to the threat posed by the 26 of July movement. While they desire to see RATISTA and his clique driven out, they are not extremists and would co-operate with the Cuban Army toward the accomplishment of this end. Although there are many anti-BATISTA persons within the Cuban Army, the SFNE is not in direct touch with any active conspirators therein at the present time. If a military junta were to be formed to oust BATISTA, however, the SFNE would co-operate with that junta. With regard to SFNE-DR relations, the SFNE cannot become identified with the DR because of CUBELA's involvement in the assassination of Colonel Antonio BLANCO Rico in 19562 and the consequent effect this might have on SFNE-Cuban Army relations.
- 3. The SFNE occupies a territorial sone of great potential strategic importance. Given sufficient arms, they believe that they could cause a government crisis in Habana by seizing and holding Las Villas Province, thereby cutting off Habana from its main sources of supply in Las Villas, Camaguey, and Oriente Provinces.

S-E-C-R-E-T

DISTRIBUTION

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- L. The SYNE suffers from a serious shortage of arms and amountion.

  Approximately 700 men have Italian carbines and a very few heavy weapons such as Johnson automatic rifles and Thompson submachinegums. The remainder of the men have sidearms. The carbines were furnished by Carlos PRIO from previously existing arms caches in Cuba. The SFNE, has about \$100,000 cash available in the United States to buy arms but they are reluctant to chance losing the arms to U.S. authorities, who have already seized some attempted shipments. The SFNE suspects that the 26 of July Movement may have been responsible for such seizures by "tipping off" the U.S. authorities.
- 5. The SFNE is facing a strategic crisis. Because of the arms and amnunition shortage they must necessarily restrict the scope of their military activities. This means that as the 26 of July force under GUEVAFA begins to get organized and to receive the full support of the international 26 of July organization, they will be able to maintain a much higher level of military activity than that of the SFNE. This will eventually result in a deterioration of SFNE morals and in the domination of the Escambray by GUEVAFA. The SFNE estimates that this will take place before the end of January 1959. They have told PRIO of this situation and are urging him to send arms and ammunition as soon as possible. The CA members of the SFNE are sending about 30 personal letters to PRIO urging his support.
- 6. Before GUEVARA's arrival in the Sierra Escambray there was a contingent of about 150 sympathizers of the 26 of July operating in that area. About half of these have joined GUEVAFA's force, bringing it to 16h men; the remainder have stayed with the SFNE. GUEVARA's force is well equipped with automatic weapons. The amount of his present supplies is not known. He arrived with a supply train of 70 mules. There are no air strips in his area, and the only way his supplies can be augmented is by air drop.
- 7. The SFNE, on the other hand, controls four air strips and can control on demand a certain section of the coast highway between Cienfuegos and Trinidad. Any of these can be used by IC-3 aircraft. No air shipments of arms or amunition have been received by the SFNE as yet, although around early October they held the highway strip for five days awaiting such a flight. The IR has received one air drop of Thompson submachineguns, but most of these were broken under the impact of the drop.
- 8. It costs approximately \$2,000 a day to maintain the fighting force of the SFNE. Most of this money is raised by taxes on the Escambray coffee harvest. Some financial and material aid comes from Habana from the retaguardia (rearguard), as these SFNE supporters call themselves. The SFNE has a small medical department consisting of about two doctors, two dentists, and several murses. They also have a shortwave transmitter valued at about \$1,000. The SFNE receives little aid from abroad, where the 26 of July movement dominates all support activities.
- 9. The SFNE has little political ideology. Its fighting creed is "Liberty," Justice, Democracy, The Constitution of "LO, and the Lone Star." Rather than create another flag as did the 26 of July movement, the SFNE prefers to retain the Cuban banner with its single star.
- O. The SFNE has completely controlled the problem of Communism in its zone. There are only two self-admitted Communists, who have been allowed to remain in the zone on the condition that they remain "quiet" (Tranquilo). Communist leaders from Habana previously made, an approach to the SFNE to be allowed to participate in the fighting-alongside that organization. The request was made through four self-admitted Communists who resided in the Escambray zone, two of whom have since left the zone. The Communist offer was flatly rejected.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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The SFNE is organized into seven guerrilla forces totaling about 1,000
    men and one training camp of acout 600 men. Set forth below is the
    organisational and personnel breakdowns
    a. High Command
         (1) Major Eloy GUTIERREZ Menoyo
(2) (civilian) Armendo FIRITES Dias
                                                        Commander-in-Chief
                                                        Delegate General
                                                       Chief of Organisation
               Major William Alexander MORGAN
              (civilian) Aurelio NAZARIO
Sargento
                                                        Political Advisor
                                                        Secretary of Beneral Staff
         (5) Captain Refeel-GARRIGA
   b. Querrilla Commanders
        (2) Najor ARROYO (fmu)
(3) Najor Lazaro ARTOLA
(4) Najor Anastro
              Najor Anastasio CARDENAS?
Najor Plinio PRIETO (abroad)
Najor Jesus CARRERAS
A c. Detachment Commanders
               Captain Manuel-ZABALO
              Captain Heriberto-ARCE
             Captain Abel CAMACHO Peres
Captain Remiro LORENZO
             Captala Cresencio CIMERANEZ
             Captain Joaquin RODRIGUEZ
              Captain Angel BANOS
             Captain Inia-LLORO Cabrera
              Captain Filiberto CONZALEZ
          10) Captain Enrique PENA
     (11) Captain Jose SANCHEZ
          (12) Captain Eduardo PIEDRA
          (1) Captain Moises HERNANDEZ Torrecille
(1) Captain Leonardo BONEINO
         (15) Captain Rafael CADENA
(16) Captain Roberto SORI
(17) Captain Eduardo PEREZ
(18) Captain Domingo ORTEGA
         (19) Captain Julio MARTINEZ
    d. Junior Officers
         (1) Lt. Oscar PEREZ Peres
(2) Lt. Angel\RODRIGUEZ
(3) Lt. Berardo SALAS
              Lt. Jose Gerardo BANGUELAS
              Lt. Adan LOPEZ
             Lt. Andres CONTAN Ocena
             Lt. Jose PACIN
             Lt. Wilfredot FEREZ
Lt. Luis VARGAS
         (10) Lt. Marcelo DIAZ Consales
         (11) Lt. Julio A. INUREZ Cabada
(12) Lt. Jose A. GARCIA Aguilar
         (13) Lt. Carlos OOMEZ Milian
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## Field Corments

- Top Ortodoxo leader well known for his opposition activities against BATISTA.
- 2. Former student who participated in the assassination in 1956 of Colonel Antonio BLANCO Rico, former Chief of the Servicio de Inteligencia (SIM, Cuban Hilitary Intelligence Service).
- 3. Argentine medical doctor and 26 of July troop commander who was reported by a fairly reliable source on 8 October 1958 to have reached las Villas Province in a successful drive from the Sierra Haestra in Oriente Province.
- II. GUTTERREZ and MORGAN have several times been reported as leaders of rebel groups in the Sierra Escambray. MORGAN is a U. S. citizen and reportedly a Korean war veteran.
- 5. Armando M. FLEITES Disz, former medical student in the University of Habana. FLEITES has a long record of revolutionary activities and left Habana for exile in Mexico on 25 August 1958.
- 6. Number of the National Executive Committee of the Partido del Pueblo Cubano (Ortodoxo) (Cuban People's Party-Orthodox).
- 7. Possible reference to Alfredo PENA, mentioned as a guerrilla chief in the Sierra Escambray in the June 1958 issue of 13 de Marzo, official organ of the DR.
- 8. Probable reference to Lazaro Josquin ARTOLA, former student of commerce who was arrested in 1956 on charges of planning an assault against Cuban Army installations in Casaguey.
- 7. Probable reference to Anastasio CARDENAS Avila, reported in the Habana press on & March 1958 to be commanding a rebel group in Las Villas Province.
- 10. Probable reference to Plinio PRIETO Ruis, reliably reported in May 1958 as an OA member who signed a declaration to the Cuban people announcing the opening of a second front.
- 11. Probable reference to Jesus CARRERAS, reported in the June 1958 issue of 13 de Marzo to be in the Sierra Escambray.
- 12. Possible reference to koger RODRICUEZ Sanches, reported in the Habana press on 2h June 195h as a University of Habana student who was acquitted with eight other students of charges of public disorder in the University. One Roger RODRIGUEZ signed a protest in 1955 against the Cuban and Guatemalan dictatorships.

S-E-C-R-E-1

19-7-2

solidado y viotorioso, son cominio de vastísimas monas que compressa los grasolidado y viotorioso, son cominio de vastísimas monas que compressa los grapos monteñosos de Sancti-Spíritus, Trinidad y Cionfus, os, an is regista central
de la Isla de Cuba. La dirección bélica del Escambray está e cata para las distado Mayor radicado en la Cordillora, organismo que elabora sobre el prepio terreno
ha estrategia y la tástica a seguir en cada eportunidad. La Comandancia y Jefatura máxima del mismo está en manos del joven y bravo combatiente, aloy GutirEREZ NESCYO, 7 lo segundan los Comandantes GRBARO ARROYO, ARASTASIO CARDENAS,
JECUS CARRERA, DR. ARMANDO PLEITES DIAZ (Delegado General Civil), WILLIAM A. MUEGAR, FLINIO PRINTO RUIZ (actualmente Delegado en el Extranjere) y ALPREDO PECIA.

Re prociso señalar que bajo la jurisdicción de este Estado Nayor, están sujetos gran número de oficiales, que han obtenido sus respectivos grados por
los seritos adquiridos en las sonas de operaciones del II Frente Racional del
Escambray. Con el grado de Capitán y jefe de destacemento, existen los siguienlezaro Artola
tes: Namuel Zabalo, heriberto Arce, Abel Gamecho Féres, Ramiro Lorense, Grade
cemcio Gimeranes, Joaquín Hodrígues, Angel Bahos, Luis Lierá Cabrera, Piliberto Gensáles, harique Peña, José Sánches, Eduardo Fildira, Maisés Hernándes Torrecilla, Leonardo Hombine, Rafael Cadena, Roberto sorf, Eduardo Páres, Domingo Ortega, Julio Hartíness y con el grado de Tenisates Oscar Péres, Pargel Rodrígues, Derardo Salas, José Gerardo Bengualas, Adan Lópes, Andrés Contán
Ocaña, José Pacin, Wilfredo Péres, Luis Vargas, Marcelo Dias Consáles, Julio Ac
Ruñes Cabada, José A. Garcia Aguilar, Carlos Cómes Milian, Sergio Mentes de Oca, Eloine Barrera, Carlos Bomedios, Ismael Péres, Persin Amador Rodrígues,
Migsel Alba, Evelio Martínes y Aldo Sánches.

La Delegación General Civil de este frente está constituída por un Delegación de Grala, el Dr. APMARDO FIEITAS DIAZ, un Coordinador Racional, ROCERECENTE, por los distintos Delegados Provinciales y departamentos anexos al mismes una Delegación en el Extranjere y un Comité Interno para función no militar. El Dr. Fleitas Diaz, además de desempedar cabalmente su responsable cargo, trabaja en coordinación com el Departamento Sanitario, atendiendo a la pobleción compesina de todas las sonas.

19-9-8)

<sup>---</sup> DROAMIZACION Y DISCIPLINA ----

Los pioneres del II Frante, tras hacerse fuertes y lograr mentenerse en la

región montañosa del Sur de Las Villas, penetraron de innediajo en la fracede la organización y la már entricta disciplina. A tel larectal rebondieros
a distar un regimento e el composito de la revelada de la constituyó un Tribunal Disciplinario, encargado en tobales y resolver sobre todos los casos de infracciones y delitos. Lo resolver como de la precompación de los hombres del Escambray por el mantonimiento de la moral, la disciplina y el orden.

Uno de los erganismos que más fructifera labor realisa en la cordillera, es, sin lugar a dudas, el Departamento Sanitario. A cargo del mismo está
el reputado galeno, Capitán José Misrahi, teniendo a sus órdenes un numeroso
y valiosísimo personal; ocupando el puesto de segundo, el Teniente Carlos quesada. El Team Médico no selamente presta sus servicios a los rebeldos, sino que tembién lo hace a los hábitantes de las regiones en que elles eperan.

Con la instalación de distintas enfermerías y el incosante trabajo de los hembres que componen el Departamento Sanitario, se ha logrado la dismissión considerable de las epidemias y enfermedades aránicas que asotatum a un porcentaje considerable de vecinos del Tarritorio Libro del Becambray.

Los rebeldes exentan con un Durc de Premea y Propaganda, erganismo que eredacta los partes oficiales e informaciones del II Preme. La dirección del mismo está a cargo del Capitán Refael Carriga, quien a la vez tiene la responsabilidad de la Secretaría del Estado Mayor.

La jefature de la (organización General del II Prente Macional del Escambray -uma especie de Supervisor Militar- está en manos del nortecampricano, Comandente William A. Morgán, hombres espas, de grandes iniciativas y un trabajador incancable por la superación de todo el aperato que opera bajo la jurisdicción del Estado Xayor rebelco.

Para evitar la infiltración de confidentes, agentes guternamentales, ehivatos e delincuentes en territorio beligerante, se ha ereado el Cuarpo de Investigación e Información, al mendo del Capitán Manuel Utero. Este organismo
se encarga también de interrogar a aquellos honbres que son enviados por los
encales rebeldes en la retaguardia para impresar en sus filas, admás de reslizar un permenente obeques sobre el comportamiento de todas las fuersas con
la población empesina.

Una de les grandes dificultades del ejército rebelde del indambier, que en principio, la entrada de mercancias, medicinas, ropes, manetes per en 12 se tode lo necesario para avicuallar debidamente sua miliciantes. Espera estad dificultades han quedade superadas cen la creación y perfecho familiamente del Departemento de Abastecimientos, que está a cargo del Capitan Jaco Garde-

En coordinación con el anterior, trabaja el Guartel Maestre Coneral, que distribuye los alimentos y otros artículos necesarios a los immuscrables estrepamentos rebeldes. El Capitán Monorio Machin, es la persona con que suenta e el Estado Mayor rebelde para que sugfuerzas disfruten de la debida atención. Además, es significativo señalar que junto a Abestecimientos y al Guartel e Maestre General, está funcionando la fabrica de botas, cananas, uniformas y sartucheras para revólveres y pistolas.

bl Departemento de Armeria del II Prente Racional del Escambrey, dotado de todos los equipos necesarios para llenar a cabalidad su trabejo, está dirigido por el Capitán Regino Gamacho, ex-tehiedte del ejército republicano espafiol, y técnico en la construcción de Armanantos y huntelones. Este combatica-te español, que ha heche suya la causa de la libertad de Cuba, es un verdadere maestro en su profesión. Tal sosa ha quedado demostrada con la fabricación
del "M-1-GAMACHO", calibre 15, acondicionada con cargador de disco de 70 tiros y enfrimientos y tiene ya en construcción otro tipo de M-1, éste de bala
de carabina italiana expensiva-

En el terreno de la comunicación y el contacte diario, las Auereas del II Frento no tienen dificultades de mingun género con la existencia del Caerpo - de Mensajeros, integrado por hombres conocedores de las amplias mones dominadas por los incurgentes. Al frente de este importante males está el Capitán Carlos Manuel Cárdenas.

El Estado Mayor y la Delagación Civil de este frente, en vista del elevado porcentaje de nifica de edad escolar y campesinos analfabetos, ha procedide a la apertura de esquelas en varias sonas, a cargo de las cuáles se encuentrán - elementos con condiciones intelectuales para importir una enseñanza que jamás gobierno alguno efreció.

Los horbres d'A II Fronte Escional del Essembray dequestran con la realisasión diaria de hechos positivos que son elgo más que querreros. Este se compruebe con el tratajo que realiza el Departamento de Ingentina, bajo la direación del estudiante de esta enteria, Capitán Publicaje, Ruid, ergoidade preocupado por el mejoramiento de los caminos y serreteras existentes en estas acoas, y asimismo se preocupa por la edificación y reparación de pasas del empesimado desposeído de la sordillera. Se está estudiande la pasibilided de llevar a cabo un plan de reedificación de las viviendas incemándas por la meno criminal de los soldados y las destruídas por la aceler infamena de las bombas y la metralla de la tirmís.

Ser un soldado del Recembray no es ten fácil como muchos imaginan. Caisás pienesa que el penetrar en territorio rebelde, de imaediato pasarón a las fuersas que operan y dombaten en las distintas somas. Pues no compre saí. Guando cualquier hombro entra en el Territorio Libre del Essembray, se
le interrega minuciosamente en el Departemento de Investigación e Información, y más tarde se le remite al Campemento Cameral de Instrucción, lugar
donde permanecerá el tiempo prudencial que le permita obtener les conocimientos elementales para convertirse en un guerrillero apto para la pelez y el
constante bregar.

al Compenento General de Instrucción está a cargo del Capitán Benry Pasetes [El Argelino]), nativo de Argelia, ex-contatiente de la II Guerra Mandial y un verdadero masatre en le que a contiendas de guerrillas se refiere.

/ La diseiplina, el comparismo y el sécndrado smor a la patria prodomina en los integrantes de esta esquela de la revolución, Nate compenento es un verdadero ejemplo de lo que puede el trabajo, la prédica y el esfuerso desarroliado per el Capitán Fuertes y el Teniente Martinos.

La jefatura de Personal del fronte está bajo la responsebilidad del Capitas Efren Mar, uno de los combatientes más entiguos del Escambray.

## ----JOHCLURICHES

Cientos de combatientes enestituyen las fuerens del II Frente Masional del Escaphray, dende en un mosaico patriótico conviven les hembres de tedas las esferas sociales, de todas las militancias revolucionarias, políticas e los alejados de allas, hermanados bejo un nombres II FRENTE MACIONAL DEL ESCAMBRAY, y una bandera: LA ES LA ESTRULLA SOLITARIA.

El II Prente -le retrarance- es un bastion de guerre, que tiene como objetive primerdial el derreceviente de la distadura y el restablecimiente de las instituciones democráticas: pero estima que de esta revolución deben - que garanticen que los hechos que lombatimos james sualvem a repetirele y da donde surja pujente la CU. A NUEVA DE HANARA. VENCUR O RORIRI

Recembray, combre de 1958.

MN

Jose Suré de rrenea y trepaganda Il Frente San, Eccambrer.